Supply of LPG to Sponge Iron industry

3981. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no LPG has been allotted to sponge Iron Industry which has been included by Government in the high priority industries in the new industrial policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) is there any proposal to sanction LPG to the industry under reference; and

(d) the details of such other industries in the public sector which have not been sanctioned any LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) In view of the restricted availability of LPG in the country, LPG is allotted to industrial units including sponge iron industry on grounds of technical essentiality certified and recommended by Department of Industrial Development in the case of large industries and the State Level Committees for Small Scale Industries. To augment LPG supplies to industries in the country, Government in February 1993 has permitted the import and sale of LPG by private agencies under Parallel Marketing System. The entrepreneurs and industries are also free to import LPG for their own use.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas in India by Norway

3982. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level technical delegation of oil experts from Norway have visited India to explore the possible avenues of Indo-Norwegian Cooperation in the oil and gas sector;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached with Norway in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(d) to what extent Norway is going to help India in exploring the oil and gas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Setting up of LPG Distributorships in Andhra Pradesh

3983. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up LPG distributorship at those place where population of more than 20,000 exists in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Subject to economic viability and product availability, LPG distributorships are opened at District Headquarters, and towns having a population of 20,000 and above in a phased manner. Accordingly, 40 locations have been included in the current LPG Marketing Plan 1992—94 for Andhra Pradesh.

भारत ओमान गैस पाइपलाइन

3984. **श्री सोमपाल:**
श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह:

क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 9 जून, 1994 के "इंडियन एक्सप्रैस" में "ओमान भारत गैस पाइपलाइन कास्टिंग रुपीज 50 मिलियन डालर" शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया क्या है;

(ग) क्या इस महत्वपूर्ण परियोजना को पूरा करने के संबंध में कोई अंतिम निर्णय ले लिया गया है; यदि हां, तो इसके कब तक पूरा किये जाने की संभावना है; और

(घ) इस परियोजना का ब्यौरा क्या है?